BENGALURU, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2024 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 20 | Humidity 69% Mostly Cloudy Sensex 82,559 | Nifty 25,278 | Gold 71,637 | Silver 82,354 | Dollar 83.90 | Euro 92.90 | GBP 110.27

POP CULTURE

Environmentalists raise concerns over continued manufacturing of plaster of paris idols on outskirts of city

PAGE 4

TAXING TIME

Though BBMP has begun taking action, almost 67% of property tax defaulters are yet to start clearing their dues

PAGE 5

Around 1,400 vehicles left unclaimed across city in 2024 as police find it difficult to trace owners; lengthy process involved in getting vehicles disposed of means they just continue to dot the landscape

CAST AWAY

Vehicles dumped as they are not functional, or owner lacks means to keep it: Traffic police

| Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In the heart of Vivekananda Nagar, Jai Bharat Nagar, an abandoned car has been parked in front of Mohan Nair's apartment for nearly 15 days now. Its windshield visibly damaged, this wreck of a vehicle serves as a stark reminder of the growing issue of unclaimed vehicles in Bengaluru.

Despite efforts to trace the owner, identified as Nanje Gowda, Nair's inquiries only deepened suspicions, with Gowda claiming to have sold the vehicle but providing no details about the new owner. Frustrated, Mohan contacted the police, who clamped the vehicle but informed him that they lacked the authority to tow it without private arrangements.

This car is just one of the 1,400 abandoned vehicles cluttering the city, highlighting the challenges faced by residents and authorities alike in dealing with such situations. Nair's street, already a target for miscreants, remains partially blocked by the car that is a lingering symbol of the difficulties in tracing vehicle ownership in the city today.

The growing number of abandoned vehicles has become a significant challenge for city authorities. As per the official reports, there are around 1,400 vehicles—560 two-wheelers and 840 four-wheelers—left unclaimed across the city just in 2024 and finding the owners of these vehicles has proven to be a difficult task.

> **"If done properly, the BBMP could dispose of a vehicle in a month, but the criminal procedure typically takes around six months**
>
> — DCP Traffic East Kuldeep Kumar Jain

Why abandon?

The primary reason people tend to abandon their vehicles is often because the vehicle is no longer functional, or they lack the space and financial means to maintain it.

Shivaprakash Devaraju, DCP Traffic South, explained,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Live and let live

Resident welfare associations come forward to get BBMP, NGO organise sessions to raise awareness on co-existing with strays

| Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

After the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) issued guidelines for resident welfare associations to manage community animals on their premises, societies in the city have decided to show their compassionate side.

Over the last month, many housing societies have approached BBMP to organise awareness about rules around community animals (stray dogs and cats) and allied issues.

They say the idea is to educate residents about topics such as the animal birth control rule, anti-rabies vaccinations, animal protection laws, rights of animal feeders, dos and don'ts of community animal management, and so forth to ensure the welfare of both animals and residents on the campus.

According to Sahavarthin Animal Welfare Trust, the NGO that is organising the sessions in association with BBMP, while seven sessions have already been held, more residential societies are coming forward with requests.

"Many communities are breaking barriers by challenging beliefs such as community dogs don't deserve a life, all dogs bite, kids cannot be exposed to animals, and so on. They are coming forward to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Poetry evening

Join in and experience the magic of poetry with Saranya Francis at "Tuesdays with the Bard @ Urban Solace. An award-winning author and educator, Saranya blends her roles as an English lecturer, life skills trainer, and women's rights activist into verses that resonate across cultures. Recipient of the Star Ambassador of World Poetry and Bharath Award for Literature, she brings a global perspective to her art. **Where: Urban Solace**
When: September 3, 7:30 pm to 9 pm

02 Laughter riot

Watch 'Waiting for Naseer,' a philosophical comedy wherein two actors wait at the Prithvi Theatre cafe to catch a show of their favourite actor, Naseeruddin Shah's new play. But the situation is weirder than it sounds, because only one of them is entitled to a ticket, and because they are both dead! The play is a celebration of theatre, acting, passion, and of life itself …only it is being celebrated by two dead men.
Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar
When: September 4, 7:30 pm

03 Book lover's paradise

Get ready to immerse yourself in a literary wonderland at 'The Big Bangalore Book Fest.' Explore a vast selection of over 10,000 books, covering a multitude of genres, interests, and languages. Enjoy engaging activities like author interactions, storytelling sessions, book launches, and book signings. Whether you`re a casual reader or a devoted collector, this festival is the perfect opportunity to dive into the world of books and discover your next favourite read. **Where: Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru**
When: Until September 22

Work halted: BBMP contractors protest over delayed payments

Unhappy with slow progress, contractors call for immediate payment of outstanding bills worth ₹1,600 crore

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

KAUSHIK JN

BBMP contractors staged a protest demanding their pending dues at BBMP Head Office on Monday

Hundreds of contractors from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) protested at the BBMP Head Office on Monday, demanding the release of payments totalling Rs 1,600 crore. The contractors submitted a formal letter to the BBMP Chief Commissioner, urging the settlement of their outstanding bills towards the benefit of approximately 1,000 contractors.

During the protest, the contractors were detained by police and taken to custody but were subsequently released at Chamarajpet.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Working Contractors Association has decided to stop all ongoing developmental works in the city until the government issues directions to the BBMP Chief Commissioner. "We have submitted a letter to the BBMP Chief Commissioner demanding clearance of pending bills, but the Chief Commissioner said that he has already written a letter to the government but yet to receive any direction on it," said KT Manjunath, president of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Working Contractors Association.

According to Manjunath, the BBMP has released only 75 per cent of the payment, and it is yet to clear the pending 25 per cent of the payment amounting to Rs 1,600 crore to around 1,000 contractors. "We are stopping all the developmental work. The police did not allow us to continue our protest, as there is no provision to stage a protest at the BBMP Head Office. We are contemplating obtaining permission from the authorities to stage a protest at Freedom Park in support of our demands," Manjunath said.

Agitation to be continued

It is said the state government has ordered an investigation into the developmental works taken up by the BBMP during the BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) regime. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar had withheld payment to the contractors but later ordered the release of 75 per cent of the payment. The state government has formed a one-man commission in May 2023, but the contractors are not happy with the slow progress of the investigation. "Many contractors are finding it difficult due to the delay in releasing the remaining 25 per cent of the amount. We will not withdraw our agitation till our demands are met," he said.

Bus-ting barriers: On the go AI, tech lessons to students

| Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Government schools students in the Mahadevapura constituency are getting hands-on exposure to cutting-edge technology with the new "Maker Lab on Wheels" program. This month-long educational drive is aimed at enhancing the technological know-how of students from Grade 5 to degree level in government schools and colleges across the Mahadevapura zone.

The initiative, led by the Mahadevapura Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Education Task Force in collaboration with Infosys, began its journey on Monday at the Kadugodi Government First Grade College Campus in Channasandra. The program is designed to give government school students an edge by providing them with crucial exposure to artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning—fields that are becoming increasingly vital in today's digital age.

Smart classrooms

The 'Lab on Wheels' is a state-of-the-art Volvo air-conditioned bus, fully equipped with smart classrooms and the latest technology. Inside, trained experts will deliver one-hour sessions to groups of 20 students at a time, focussing on a range of subjects, including AI, robotics, microcontrollers, the Internet of Things (IoT), augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR), drones, and 3D printing. "Each day, the bus aims to educate 80 students. If a school or college has more students interested in the program, the bus will extend its stay to ensure that every student has the opportunity to participate," said Hariprasad Reddy, Chairman of the Mahadevapura Task Force (MTF) PPP Education.

STEM training to 100+ schools & colleges

The program is set to reach out to approximately 100 schools and colleges in the constituency, offering essential training in various STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) disciplines. By fostering curiosity and encouraging problem-solving and experimentation, the initiative hopes to inspire the next generation of innovators. Students will have the chance to engage in projects and hands-on learning that promote design thinking and adaptive learning.

This initiative is entirely free of charge, ensuring that all students, regardless of their background, can benefit from this unique educational opportunity. Reddy further added, "This initiative is designed to give government school students the exposure they need to compete with their peers in private schools. Infosys has successfully implemented a similar program in Telangana, and we are excited to bring this opportunity to Mahadevapura."

Tuition centre double blow: Wanted refund, got conned

Parent seeks refund over shut Byju's tuition centre, falls into cyber trap that leaves him cheated of Rs 1.30 lakh

| Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A cyber fraudster duped a parent, Ram Kailash Yadav, of ₹1.30 lakh, by pretending to offer a refund for tuition fees paid to a Byju's Tuition Centre. Yadav had enrolled his son at the centre, but sought a refund due to dissatisfaction with the service. He was informed that the tuition centre had been shut down due to non-payment of rent, leaving him in a lurch.

Soon after, Yadav received a call from an individual claiming to represent Byju's, offering to process his refund. The fraudster sent him a link labeled 'rustdesk.apk', insisting it was necessary for the refund process. Trusting the caller, Yadav downloaded the application, which allowed the fraudster to gain access to his bank account. Within moments, ₹1.30 lakh was siphoned from his account.

Adding to his woes, Yadav later received a message from Byju's Tuition Centre demanding payment for pending dues, despite the centre's closure and the fraud he had just experienced.

Confused and distressed, Yadav has filed a complaint with the local police, seeking justice for the financial loss and the bizarre situation where after being defrauded, the tuition centre still demands payment from him.

Man in dock for forging land documents

The Halasuru Gate police have registered a case against Lakshman Yellappa, a landowner from Sonnenahalli in Kengeri, for allegedly cheating the government and a private party by selling land that had already been acquired by the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA).

According to the complaint filed by Rajnikanth, Assistant Commissioner, Bengaluru South, Yellappa had received compensation for 2.02 acres of his land in January 2003, which was acquired by the BDA to form a layout. The compensation package also included a 600 sq ft site. However, Yellappa allegedly forged documents and sold the same land to Hanumanth Gowda and Puttaswamy, who registered the property at the BTM Layout sub-registrar's office. The fraudulent sale came to light in 2013, a decade after the initial compensation was paid, and an extensive inquiry was conducted before the case was officially registered on August 28. The Halasuru Gate police have charged the trio with cheating and forgery.

CRIME FILES

Prostitution racket: Two minor girls rescued

Two minor girls were rescued from a prostitution racket by the Central Crime Branch (CCB) during a raid on a house in Hongasandra. The raid, conducted by the CCB's Women's Protection Squad, led to the arrest of three accused: Suraj Sahji, Karisma Sheikh, and Subramanya Shastri, a local software engineer. The girls, aged 15 and 16, were found to be orphans from West Bengal, allegedly trafficked from Bangladesh.

The raid was initiated following credible information about the trafficking of minors. Subramanya Shastri, who is accused of orchestrating the operation, reportedly contacted individuals to bring young girls into the city. The investigation revealed that the minors were kept in a rented house in Hongasandra and forced into prostitution.

The accused, Suraj Sahji and Karisma Sheikh, both hailing from Odisha, along with Shastri, have been charged under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Initially registered at Bommanahalli police station, the case has now escalated to a full investigation under the POCSO Act, with officials focusing on uncovering further connections and rescuing other potential victims.

BJP leader faces sexual assault, blackmail allegations

Karnataka BJP leader Arun Kumar Puthila has been accused of sexual assault and blackmail by a 47-year-old woman, in a case that has sent shockwaves through the political circles of Puttur and beyond.

The woman, originally from Sirsi and currently residing in Puttur, lodged a complaint at the Puttur Women's Police Station on September 1, alleging that Puthila sexually assaulted her at a Bengaluru hotel in June 2023.

According to the FIR filed under IPC Sections 517, 354A, and 506, the complainant has accused Puthila of taking photos, selfies, and videos during the alleged assault, which he later used to blackmail her. The woman claims that following the incident, she sought police protection after a viral audio clip, purportedly involving Puthila, emerged online. The clip and subsequent threats reportedly led the woman to request safety from the authorities.

In response to the allegations, Puthila has denied any wrongdoing, calling the accusations politically motivated. The case has drawn attention, particularly given Puthila's association with the Puthila Parivara, a faction aligned with the BJP, raising concerns within the party.

The Puttur Women's Police Station has taken up the case, and investigations are currently underway to verify the claims and gather further evidence. – BMB

Are authorities serious on ban of PoP Ganesha idols?

Despite bold statements from BBMP and KSPCB, PoP idols continue to pop up every year

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

One of the sheds were PoP Ganesha idols are being made, in spite of BBMP's action and KSPCB's promotion of eco-friendly practices

While authorities of different departments not evincing interest to take stringent measures against those making or selling plaster of Paris (PoP) Ganesha idols, the much publicised and hyped statements of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) authorities continue to remain on paper year after year. Issuing statements has become a routine for the BBMP and KSPCB authorities same as how it has become a habit for those responsible for Ganesha idols made of plaster of Paris to flout the norms.

It is a known fact that some unscrupulous elements have been included in the making plaster of Paris Ganesha idols on the outskirts of the city, but the KSPCB authorities or local bodies fail to stop them from making and supplying such idols to Bengaluru. Without taking preventive measures, the BBMP Chief Commissioner has been issuing statements of filing criminal cases against those selling such idols that would pollute the environment.

Residents, especially environmentalists, want the BBMP authorities to prevent entry of Ganesha idols made of plaster of Paris into the city. They want the authorities concerned to conduct raids on warehouses where such idols are kept. "I have come across some sheds at Marasandra near Doddaballapur where thousands of Ganesha idols made of plaster of Paris are kept. I was told that the KSPCB authorities have been visiting these sheds to collect money instead of taking a stringent action against those making such idols," said Balakrishna, a resident of Marasandra.

Bangalore Mirror published a story - Authorities swoop down on, slap fines on PoP idol sellers - on September 17, 2023, narrating how a team of BBMP officials, KSPCB officials, marshalls, and police swooped down on temporary stalls to seize idols made of plaster of Paris. They have seized 16 idols and penalised eight people Rs 1,000 each.

Coming down heavily on the BBMP, KSPCB and police for the lack of coordination to curb the menace of idols made of plaster of Paris, an environmentalist on a condition of anonymity, has opined that it is the KSPCB authorities who have to act tough against those responsible for making or selling idols made of plaster of Paris. "It has become a routine for the BBMP authorities and KSPCB authorities to issue statements on the occasion of the Ganesha festival. I want the KSPCB authorities to stop people from making such idols that pose danger to the environment," said the environmentalist.

> **"This looks like another Ban Plastic Bags story. KSPCB promoting eco-friendly practices and BBMP's statements are doing nothing** – Resident

Nivedita Sunkad, Managing Trustee of I Care RR Nagar, has said that all environmental rules and regulations go to sleep during the festival. "How many years since we have been hearing about the ban on PoP Ganeshas. But still they are popping up in every street. The KSPCB keeps on promoting eco-friendly Ganesha idols but does nothing when PoP idols land in the market. The BBMP gives out statement after statement about penalising sellers but residents don't get to see any action on the ground. This looks like another Ban Plastic Bags story," said Sunkad.

When informed, KSPCB Environment Officer SC Suresh said that he visited the shed where Ganesha idols made of plaster of Paris were kept and seized 250 such idols. "I have no power to stop the people from making Ganesha idols with plaster of Paris. Marasandra falls under the jurisdiction of Arakere Village Panchayat which is authorised to punish those involved in making Ganesha idols with plaster of Paris," said the officer. Meanwhile, the Arakere Panchayat Development Officer has said that he has already seized Ganesha idols made of plaster of Paris. "I will send a team of officials to stop making such idols," said the Arakere Panchayat Development Officer.

Illegal flexes and banners in JP Nagar to be removed

Iffath Fathima
iffath.fathima@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

BBMP has issued orders to Zonal Commissioners of all eight zones to take stringent actions and pull down these banners and flexes

Residents of Bannerghatta road, JP Nagar have brought in an issue of illegal flexes and banners that are installed at their locations for months and highlighted the issue to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officers. Following the complaint, the BBMP has issued orders to Zonal Commissioners of all the eight zones to take stringent actions and pull down the flexes and banners that are spoiling the environment and resulting in problems with clear visibility of the road.

The situation of illegal installation of flexes and banners has been there for years, despite being prohibited by the Karnataka High Court. In many localities like JP Nagar, Bannerghatta road, Sarjapur the residents have observed the installation of the flexes and banners from different steel or tyre companies that have been installed for a long time. They also pointed out at the fact that while the government has made a rule that 60% of signages should be in Kannada for commercial establishments however most of the hoardings installed only had English details on it.

Joshua Sinto, Assembly President, Bengaluru South Assembly said, "Advertisements on walls can significantly affect a city's aesthetic appeal. While they fulfil commercial needs, their excessive presence can clutter public spaces and diminish the architectural and historical charm of urban areas. Court orders have been issued against such advertisements, mandating the removal of illegal ads, imposing fines, and ensuring future advertisements adhere to specific guidelines that align with urban design standards. The civic body should take action and stop allowing for illegal advertisements."

whatsapp MIRROR 9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

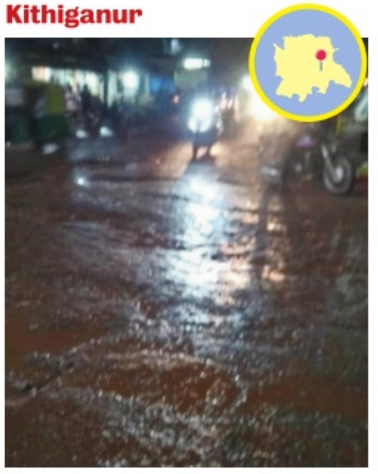
Traffic congestion
Kalyan Nagar

Two-wheelers, at a showroom on 8th Main, Kalyan Nagar, are parked haphazardly occupying much of the road, and this is causing traffic jams, which is neglected by cops.

Improper repair
Venkatachari Nagar

The repair work carried out by BBMP at MLA Layout, near the 3rd Main road of Railway Men's Colony, Venkatachari Nagar, is of poor quality.

Potholed path
Kithiganur



For many years, the road opposite Reliance Smart Point in Kithiganur has been plagued with potholes and remains unpaved, causing significant problems to commuters.

Transfer of case to other agency not in trial court's hands

Rachana Ramesh
c-rachana.ramesh
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Karnataka High Court has ruled that a trial court does not have the authority to order further investigation in a murder case by a different agency. The court's power is limited to directing the same investigating agency to conduct additional investigation.

Justice M Nagaprasanna, in a single judge bench, made this decision while granting the petition filed by the state government and overturning the special court's order for the CID to carry out further investigation.

The court stated, "Power of this Court under Section 482 of the Cr.P.C. cannot be exercised by the concerned Court. It is a well settled principle of law that a power to order investigation, reinvestigation or further investigation is only with the hands of this Court."

In the case at hand, the Mahadevapura police had investigated and filed a chargesheet against the accused under Section 302 r/w section 34 of the Indian Penal Code. The deceased's mother had filed an application under Section 156(3) of the Cr.P.C., requesting further investigation. The court granted the application and ordered the investigation to be handed over to a different agency. After reviewing the records, the court noted, "It is an admitted fact that the investigation was conducted by jurisdictional police i.e., Mahadevapura Police. Directing further investigation by allowing the application for a report to be filed under Section 173(8) of the Cr.P.C. could not have been directed to a different investigating agency i.e., CID. The power of the Court is restricted only to order further investigation by the same investigating agency and not at the hands of the different investigating agency."

High Court overturns special court's order for CID to carry out further investigation in murder case being probed by police

The court allowed the petition, set aside the trial court's order, and granted the mother's application for further investigation under Section 173(8) of the Cr.P.C. The court directed the jurisdictional police, who had submitted their final report, to conclude the additional investigation within three months.

MUDA case: Hearing adjourned to Sept 9

The Karnataka High Court on Monday adjourned the hearing of the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) case, which allegedly involves Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, till September 9.

The court also continued its interim order, providing relief to the Chief Minister until then. The bench passed the order after Advocate General Shashikiran Shetty requested time to present his arguments. Abhishek Manu Singhvi, representing Siddaramaiah, also requested the court to allow him to present his arguments on September 12, which the bench agreed. Senior counsel KG Raghavan, appearing for petitioner Snehamayi Krishna, submitted to the court that these irregularities occurred during Siddaramaiah's tenure as CM and Deputy CM of the state.

Coax and cajole, but 67% defaulters yet to pay taxes

Though BBMP has begun attaching and sealing non-residential buildings, almost 2,64,228 yet to pay property tax

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has started taking action by attaching properties and sealing non-residential buildings due to unpaid taxes. Despite this, a substantial 66.8% of property tax payers have still not settled their dues. There were 3,95,253 property tax defaulters at the start of the financial year. Currently, 2,64,228 defaulters remain, which means only about 33.14% have paid taxes.

Property attachment

The civic agency has begun attaching property of defaulters. East zone officials have sealed the highest number of non-residential areas, totaling 1,317 that is followed by the West zone with sealing of 1,034 non-residential areas. Mahadevapura zone comes next, with 480 non-residential areas sealed. South has sealed 470 non-residential areas, while Yelahanka follows with 416. RR Nagar zone has sealed 400 while Bommanahalli has sealed 303 non-residential areas, and Dasarahalli has the lowest number, with 166 non-residential areas sealed.

West zone leads in terms of properties attached, with a total of 9,088 properties. Next is East, where 9,401 properties have been attached. Dasarahalli follows with 4,090 attached properties, and RR Nagar comes in next with 4,554. Yelahanka has attached 4,623 properties, and Bommanahalli has attached 5,444. Mahadevapura has fewer attached properties at 3,936, while the South zone has attached 8,351 properties.

Total defaulters

Surprisingly, Mahadevapura, the highest tax-paying zone within BBMP, also has the highest percentage of defaulters with outstanding dues, standing at 35.99%. Following closely is the South zone, where 37.45% of defaulters have not yet cleared their dues. Dasarahalli zone also has a significant percentage, with 35.63% of defaulters still owing payments. In Yelahanka, 34.24% have not settled their dues. In Bommanahalli, 32.66% are yet to pay up, while East has 32.81% of defaulters still to pay. West zone has 32.94% of defaulters with unpaid dues. Finally, RR Nagar has the lowest percentage of outstanding defaulters at 30.91%.

Online approval

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has unveiled a new online building plan approval process for properties within BBMP limits measuring up to 4,000 square feet. The initiative, known as the 'Nambike Nakshe' scheme, enables property owners to obtain a provisional building plan approved by a licensed architect or engineer, which they can then submit online for final approval by the BBMP. This process applies to all sites up to a 50x80 feet area.

East zone officials have sealed highest number of non-residential areas, with 1,317, followed by West zone with sealing of 1,034 non-residential areas

No construction

Shivakumar said that no construction is permitted within a 50-metre radius of rajakaluves according to NGT regulations. "We have identified 300 km of such areas where a 30-foot road will be constructed alongside these water channels. Landowners in these areas will be compensated with Transferable Development Rights (TDR), which they can sell in place of the land. The targeted locations include Hebbal, Nagavara, Bellandur, and Bengaluru South. In the first phase, we plan to develop 100 km of roads. While these roads will not be accessible to buses, other vehicles will be allowed. A budget of Rs 200 crore has been allocated for this project, which has also been reviewed in the Cabinet," he explained.

IN BRIEF

KPSC exams, once again

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has instructed the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) to hold a new Gazetted Probationers' examination within the next two months, following significant backlash over alleged errors in the Kannada translation of exam questions. Siddaramaiah announced that those accountable for the translation issues have been removed from their positions. "In response to concerns about incorrect Kannada translations in the KPSC Gazetted Probationers' examination, I have directed the KPSC to retake the examination within two months to ensure fairness for all candidates. The upcoming examination will be conducted with the highest standards of responsibility and thoroughness. We are dedicated to maintaining the integrity of our recruitment processes," he said. The controversy arose from claims of "poor and incorrect" translation from English to Kannada in the question papers for the preliminary exam held on August 27, which was intended to fill 350 gazetted probationary officer positions. This issue caused confusion among Kannada-medium students. **BMB**

New bus routes

BMTC has rolled out new bus routes to enhance connectivity. Route 401-RA now operates from Chikkegowdanapalya to Yeshwanthpur TTMC, passing through Srinivasapura Cross, Halagevaderahalli, Vijayanagara, Rajajinagar 1st Block, and Yeshwantpura TTMC with a fleet of four buses. Route 374-S has been introduced between Nelamangala and Sumanahalli Junction, via Sondekoppa, Tavarekere, and Sunkadakatte, also with four buses in service. Route 516 connects Nelamangala to Kengeri TTMC, through Madanayakanahalli, Gangondanahalli, Kachohalli, Gollarahatti, Kannalli, and Sulikere, with eight buses on this route. Route 154 runs between Hale Guddadahalli and Shivajinagar, covering Sirsi Circle, KR Market, Corporation, and Shivajinagar, with two buses; Route 255-R connects Yeshwanthpur TTMC to Railway Gollahalli. **BMB**

Yettinahole project may be completed only by 2027

Though being priority project, some sections have been delayed due to forest and land acquisition issues

| Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Yettinahole Project, which aims to address drinking water shortages in drought-prone areas, is set to have its first phase inaugurated during the Gowri-Ganesha festival this weekend. However, the full completion of the project is expected by March 31, 2027. Despite the current progress, meeting this deadline appears challenging.

Meeting deadlines

According to Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, the Yettinahole Project is slated to achieve several key milestones over the coming years. By March 31, 2025, the plan is to lift 85.00 cumecs of water and release it up to the 100 kilometre mark of the Gravity Canal. Concurrently, construction on the Lakkenahalli balancing reservoir is set to commence. By November 1, 2025, the project aims to extend water release up to 261.69 km of the Gravity Canal, while also achieving 50% completion of the Lakkenahalli balancing reservoir. Looking further ahead to 2026-27, by November 1, 2026, the project plans to finish all feeder works beyond the 261.69 km mark, including lift works to provide water to Kolar, Chikkaballapur, and Bengaluru Rural districts. Additionally, the remaining work on the Lakkenahalli balancing reservoir will be completed.

> **“Water has been successfully delivered to the Gravity Canal. The system has recorded 14.13 TMC of water this monsoon season**
> – DK Shivakumar, Deputy CM

Work going on a coffer dam as part of the Yettinahole Integrated Drinking Water project along ecologically sensitive Western Ghats

Project Scope and Objectives

DKS said that the Yettinahole Project plans to lift 24.01 TMC of water from Yettinahole and surrounding sources in the Western Ghats. This water will be used to alleviate severe water shortages in Chikkaballapur, Kolar, and other districts. The project involves utilising 14.056 TMC of water to fill 527 tanks and recharge groundwater in these areas, benefiting approximately 75.59 lakh people across 29 taluks.

Current Status

The Stage-1 lift and power supply works, which began in 2014, have now been completed after overcoming various challenges. This stage of the project is designed to lift 79.50 cumecs of water from multiple weirs and channel it through the Gravity Canal. Regarding the Gravity Canal construction, which spans 252.61 km, 164.47 km has been completed, and an additional 25.87 km is currently under construction. Work on subsequent sections has been delayed due to forest and land acquisition issues. To address this, a temporary water release to Vani Vilasa Sagar is planned via Veda Valley from the canal escape. “In terms of testing and operations, pre-commissioning tests commenced in November 2023. Water has been successfully delivered to Delivery Chamber-3 and subsequently to the Gravity Canal. The system, which includes German technology for real-time discharge measurement, has recorded 14.13 TMC of water this monsoon season,” DKS said. As of July 2024, the project has achieved a cumulative financial progress of Rs 16,152.05 crore. The project continues to be a priority, with significant steps planned to meet its ambitious completion timeline, which the city can hope for.

Nursing colleges’ exorbitant fees to be regulated

Karnataka Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil on Monday ordered the formation of a fee regulatory committee to monitor and regulate the fee structures of nursing colleges across the state amid complaints about exorbitant fees allegedly being charged by them.

During a review meeting of nursing institutions here, Patil disclosed that his office had received numerous complaints regarding the excessive fees charged by nursing colleges, which have placed a heavy financial burden on students. The newly constituted five-member fee regulatory committee, headed by the Joint Secretary of the Medical Education Department, will be tasked with scrutinising the fee structures, he said.

“Withdraw the Essential Certificate and Feasibility Certificate (EC&FC) of any nursing college found imposing fees beyond the government-prescribed limits,” Patil instructed department officials.

Currently, the fee structure stands at Rs 10,000 per year for students admitted under the government quota, Rs one lakh under the management quota, and Rs 1.40 lakh for non-Karnataka students. There are 35,000 seats available across 611 nursing colleges in the state.

Patil recently rejected a request from nursing college managements to increase the fee structure by 20 percent. The committee’s oversight will extend to both Bachelor of Sciences (B.Sc) Nursing and General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) diploma programmes.

In addition, the Minister has directed the Principal Secretary of Medical Education, Mohammed Mohsin, to convene a meeting with district Deputy Commissioners to inspect the infrastructure and basic facilities at GNM colleges at the taluk and district levels. **— PTI**

BM Trippin’ Tales

New online booking platform to enhance trek experience at Dudhsagar Falls

To streamline and enhance the trekking experience to the scenic Dudhsagar Falls, the Goa Tourism Development Corporation (GTDC) and the Goa Forest Development Corporation (GFDC) have launched a new online booking platform. “This is the only authorised site. We are very serious about streamlining and regularising the hinterland tourism industry,” said GFDC chairperson Deviya Rane. The website, dudhsagartrekking.com, allows tourists to book their trekking slots online, with the booking fee now set at Rs 527 plus GST. Trekkers with online bookings will be assigned a nature guide at the Collem office on the day of their visit. Allocation is on a first-come, first-served basis, and a coordinator at the Collem office will assist trekkers as needed. The daily limit for trekkers is capped at around 500 individuals, and a guide is required for every group of ten tourists. The nature guides have been trained at the Forest Training School in Valpoi.

The forest authorities have outlined key guidelines and regulations to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all visitors. They have mandated that visitors carry valid photo identity proof, and the consumption of alcohol is strictly prohibited during the trek. It is advised not to carry valuable items during the trek to prevent loss or theft. They have also insisted that visitors dispose of their waste properly and avoid littering in the forest area. “We have stopped allowing plastics to be taken inside the premises,” Rane said. “Whether they are polythene packets or plastic bottles, they will be confiscated. Not everyone has civic sense, but people must care about nature on their own,” he further stated.

Years ago, trekkers and tourists were barred from entering the falls as the railway police swung into action by posting men at the Collem railway station. 14 had lost lives and 98 others injured at Dudhsagar in the previous years. Hence, tourists were not allowed to get off the trains at Dudhsagar station. Generally, the travellers would board trains running between Hubballi and Collem and get off at the Dudhsagar station. The railway police contingent prevented them from getting off the trains. However, there were some travellers who had trekked all the way to Dudhsagar station. These trekkers were warned from walking on the railway tracks as it could be fatal. Railway officials had claimed that the regulation at Dudhsagar was being done in the interest of tourists’ safety. As it was not possible to construct an approach road to the falls and the only way to enter the falls was through trains. **— BMB**

GOA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD
DEPARTMENT OF FOREST GOVT. OF GOA
GOA FOREST DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Organises Dudhsagar Waterfall Trekking
Terms and Conditions:
LET'S BOOK YOUR TREKK
TO PAY:

KAUSHIK JN

Higher & faster

Sportspersons in action on the final day of the 63rd National Open Athletics Championship 2024, at Kanteerava Stadium on Monday. Events such as Hammer Throw, Javelin Throw, Hepathlon, Triple Jump, Steeplechase, Long Jump, Hurdle Race were held, while a few events had to be postponed due to the rain

Brakes on private universities

CM has directed no new permissions to be granted, says Minister; state govt wants to address regulatory challenges

| Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

File photo of a protest in the city

In a significant policy shift, the government has resolved not to approve new private universities. Higher Education Minister Dr. MC Sudhakar said on Monday, "Although there are 12 applications pending for private university approvals, the Chief Minister has directed that no new private universities should be granted permission. As a result, we will not be issuing approvals. The proliferation of private universities has placed financial strain on government institutions, potentially reducing them to merely awarding degrees. To address this issue, we are halting permissions for new private universities."

A Higher Education department official said it was due to the rising demand from private colleges seeking to achieve 'university status,' that the State Government decided to adopt a cautious approach. "Currently, the state has 27 private universities, alongside 41 government-run universities and 11 deemed-to-be universities. The government's decision to temporarily halt approvals for new private universities aims to address regulatory challenges and maintain control over the higher education sector."

Educationists have highlighted both advantages and disadvantages of private universities. On the positive side, private universities offer diverse academic programs, specialised courses, modern facilities, and smaller class sizes, enhancing the learning experience and attracting experienced faculty. They also foster a competitive environment that drives high standards. However, regulating private universities poses challenges. "Issues include ensuring adherence to academic standards, preventing unethical practices like fee hikes and document falsification, and maintaining equitable access to education. High costs can restrict opportunities for students from lower-income backgrounds, and transparency issues complicate regulatory enforcement," the official said.

Convocation in the absence of Governor

The 4th convocation of Bengaluru North University took place at Nandini Palace on the outskirts of Kolar. Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot's visit was cancelled due to protests from AHINDA leaders, who had issued a black badge warning. Despite the Governor's absence, the event proceeded with Higher Education Minister MC Sudhakar presided over the ceremony.

Debate intensifies

The debate over private universities has intensified into a clash between the ruling Congress and the opposition BJP. Recently, Infrastructure Minister MB Patil highlighted the case of Chanakya University, alleging it was granted 116 acres in the Devanahalli Industrial Area, causing a loss of Rs 137 crore to the state. He cautioned that if the university fails to utilise at least 51 percent of the land by June 2025, the government will reclaim the remaining portion. Patil questioned why Chalavadi had not brought this issue to the Governor's attention.

> **Currently, the state has 27 private universities, alongside 41 government-run and 11 deemed-to-be universities** –Official

Additionally, Patil criticised BJP leader Murugesh Nirani for allegedly allocating 25 acres to himself in Bagalkot's Navanagar Agrotech Park on March 12, 2012, during his tenure as Industry Minister, where he subsequently established Tejas International School. Patil challenged the suitability of setting up an educational institution in an Agrotech Park and accused Nirani of obtaining an extra 6.17 acres when he returned to office for a second term.

IN BRIEF

Police rescue elderly man found on road

In a swift act of compassion, officers from the Hoysala-164 unit of Yelahanka Police Station came to the aid of an elderly man who was found lying drenched on the road near the Indian Oil Petrol Pump at Kogilu Cross on August 29th.

The incident was reported via the #Namma112 helpline. The officers discovered the man, estimated to be between 60 and 65 years old, in a vulnerable state due to ill health. The officers cleaned him up, provided him with fresh clothes, and arranged for an ambulance to transport him to Yelahanka Government Hospital.The Puttur Women's Police Station has taken up the case.

Former MLA to the rescue

A car overturned on the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway near Cholamaranahalli in Channapatna, injuring three women and two children from a family traveling from Mysuru to the city. Former MLA MK Somashekhar, who was also en route to Bangalore, came across the accident and promptly called an ambulance to assist the injured family. His timely intervention ensured that the victims received medical attention without delay. **BMB**

49 officers to get CM's Medal

As many as 267 new appointments for forest inspectors will be presented and 49 officers and staff will be awarded with Chief Minister's medal for rendering their substantial service, Environment minister Eshwar Khandre said. The ceremony event will be held in the Banquet Hall of Vidhana Soudha on Tuesday. Eshwar Khandre mentioned that out of the 1,94,007 applications received for 310 vacancies, 267 candidates were selected based on their performance in matriculation or equivalent exams, as well as their physical strength. **BMB**

Disposal process takes months

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"Many of these vehicles are truly abandoned simply because they are not functional. In cases where the repair costs exceed the value of the car, or there are security concerns, owners may choose to leave them. In such a case, they can contact the nearest police station and the police would temporarily clamp the vehicle. If the vehicle is kept and remains unclaimed, it effectively becomes an unclaimed vehicle."

DCP Traffic East Kuldeep Kumar Jain agrees that one of the biggest reasons why people dump their vehicles is because they have no space to keep them. "Sometimes they want to sell or dispose of them, but it's not always convenient. As a result, they park these vehicles in different places. The costs of repairs, re-registration, and other expenses add to the burden, leading people to abandon their vehicles when it suits them," Jain said.

Police procedure

When a vehicle is abandoned or towed for illegal parking, it is taken to an impound lot, and the owner is notified. However, if the owner fails to claim the vehicle, it accumulates storage charges and is eventually considered abandoned.

Tracking down the owners of these vehicles is often difficult due to outdated or incorrect contact information, making it hard to notify them. In many cases, owners simply choose to ignore the fines and fees, leaving their vehicles to gather dust. If a vehicle remains unclaimed for an extended period, it may be scrapped or auctioned off, but only after legal procedures are followed.

This process ensures that abandoned vehicles don't clutter up impound lots, but it also highlights the ongoing struggle to manage the growing number of unclaimed vehicles in the city.

Other than towing

DCP Jain explained that the only procedure the police have as of now is to tow the vehicle, take it into custody, and then seek the court's permission to auction it, which can be a lengthy process.

"Alternatively, the BBMP can handle this under their BBMP Act 2020. However, since the BBMP is already overwhelmed with other issues, this concern often isn't prioritised.

If done properly, the BBMP could dispose of a vehicle in a month, but the criminal procedure typically takes around six months. This delay is why we see so many abandoned vehicles parked around the city," he said.

As police struggle to track down owners, these vehicles also add to the city's parking problems. As more vehicles are left unattended, the challenge of managing limited parking space continues to grow.

Festival special: KSRTC to run 1,500 extra buses from city

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) on Monday said it has made elaborate arrangements for operating extra 1,500 buses from Bengaluru to various places in addition to the existing schedules to provide transport facility to people from September 5 to 7, in view of upcoming Swarna gowri and Ganesh festival.

Later, special buses will be operated intra and interstate to Bengaluru on September 8. Swarna gowri will be celebrated on September 6 and Ganesh chaturthi on September 7. According to KSRTC, special buses will be exclusively operated from Bengaluru Kempegowda Bus Station to Dharmastala, Kukkesubramanya, Shivamogga, Hassan, Mangaluru, Kundapura, Shringeri, Horanadu, Davangere, Hubbali, Dharwad, Belagavi, Vijayapura, Karwar, Raichur, Kalaburagi, Ballari, Bidar, Tirupati, Vijayawada, Hyderabad and other places.

Special buses from Mysuru road bus station will be exclusively operated towards Mysuru, Hunsur, Piriyapatna, Virajpet, Kushalanagar, Madikeri. All premier special buses will be operated from BMTC bus station, Shanthinagar (TTMC) to Madurai, Kumbakonam, Chennai, Coimbatore, Tiruchi, Palakkad, Thrissur, Ernakulam, Khozikode and other places in Tamil Nadu and Kerala state.

In a statement, KSRTC said that a facility is provided to book computerised reservation tickets in advance for the special buses. Advance reservation of tickets for the special and scheduled buses of KSRTC can be booked through counters in Karnataka and other states.

A discount of five per cent on the fare will be extended, if four or more passenger's book tickets in a single ticket and a discount of 10 per cent is offered on the return journey ticket if onward and return journey tickets are booked simultaneously.

"Advance reservation of tickets for the services of KSRTC can be booked through the booking counters established by KSRTC at important cities of neighbouring States i.e. Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, Puducherry, Maharashtra and Goa," it stated. In addition, special buses will be operated from all taluk/district bus stands in the jurisdiction of KSRTC based on the traffic needs, it added. **PTI**

7 sessions conducted so far have created change of heart among apartment residents

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

understand the behaviours of community animals and how a charter for coexistence can be forged," said Sadhana Hegde, founder of Sahavarthin Animal Welfare Trust.

Coexistence champions

Crimson Tide Apartments in RT Nagar invited the Trust members and BBMP officials to address concerns around 12 stray cats on the campus.

"We have 12 cats inside the layout and the animals are fed by a resident of the society. However, this has led to many residents raising complaints on multiple occasions. The recently organised awareness session has brought down the number of complaints by over 90%. Experts explained the importance of coexistence and animal welfare laws in place," said a member of the residents association here.

Brigade Cornerstone Utopia in Varthur, an integrated township of five societies with more than 5,000 units, is yet another community that organised the session for residents. According to the members of the estate management team, it put across the concept of coexistence in the right perspective.

"We understand the importance of finding a middle ground keeping in mind the comfort levels of the residents, legalities, and most importantly empathy towards animals. So, we invited experts from the BBMP and an NGO to have a session to educate and address the concerns of residents about stray dogs here. Coexistence is the key," said a member of the estate management team.

Members of the Sunder Nagar Residents Welfare Association underline that the awareness session has led to a change of hearts of some residents. The residential society has 30-35 stray dogs, apart from nearly 20 dogs in adjoining interlinked housing societies.

"Our social media group used to be flooded with emotionally charged messages by residents who were concerned about their children getting bitten.

We thus reached out to BBMP proactively and invited residents of all age groups to participate. A handful of concerned residents have now appraised that the session was an eye-opener for them. We are planning to organise it at regular intervals," said a member of the association.

"It is overwhelming to witness such a response. RWAs are keeping an open mind and exploring options to coexist rather than eliminate stray dogs and cats. In the coming days, we are looking to collaborate with more housing societies to make Bengaluru a compassionate city," added Hegde.

RWAs interested in being a coexistence champion can reach out to Trust members at +91 95354 75235 to book a free-of-cost session.

Your Connect

jobs

SITUATION VACANT

OTHER VACANCIES

GENERAL

COURSE Completed Catering Assisstant to Chef wanted at Cafe in HSR Layout. Contact:9176675376

real estate

BANGALORE PROPERTIES

SARJAPUR ROAD

FULLY Furnished Office space for rent, 1846 Sqft super built. Ideal for offices, IT Co's. 3rd floor, Sarjapur Main Road. Near Bellandur Police Station. 9501517148 /9878118855

PROPERTY ANCILLARIES

COMMERCIAL PREMISES

COMMERCIAL space for rent ground floor 1300 sft, second floor 3300sft lift and basement parking. No 25, SSA Road above city pearl, Next to Sriram Srusti Apartment near Hebbal police station. Contact 9945022433

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Um E Kulsoom S/o Sarvar Pasha R/o #Narasapura Kolar Taluk Narasapura Karnataka - 563133 have changed my name to Ume Kulsoom.

I Dishaben Janakbhai Patel D/O, Janakbhai Ramanbhai Patel R/o 18/17/1/2, G-2 J S Tulip 5th Main Ananthapura Yelahanka Bengaluru - 560064 have changed my name to Patel Disha.

I, Mohammed Zafarulla Khan, R/at No 544, Pathan Wadi, Channapatna - 562160, Have Changed My Name To Mohammed Zafrulla Khan, For All Purposes.

I, Jabin Taj Basheer, R/at No 544, Fayazabad, J P Nagar, Bangalore - 560078 Have Changed My Name To Jabeen Taj, For All Purposes.

I, Makbul John Abdul Razak R/o #25 Yellappa Street Chikkamavalli B'lore-560004 have changed my name to Makbul John.

I, Raphael Kevin Anthony R/a KSFC Layout, St.Don Bosco Church, No.19, 2nd Cross, Lingarajapuram, Bengaluru-84. Have Changed To RAPHAEL KEVIN IRUDHAYA RAJ. vd afft dt: 2/9/2024. sworn before notary: Devaraja.E.

I Pramod kumar munshi singh R/O No S3 C block, Shantiniketan Layout , Shantiniketan bus stop, Arekere, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore -560076 Have changed my name to Pramod Kumar Singh

I Rinku Sureshbhai Nagpal W/O, Milind Wadhwani R/o Flat 106, Vikas Ritham, 3rd Cross, Amrutha Layout, Marianna Palya, Bangalore, 560024 have changed my name to Navya Milind Wadhwani.

I, JAYAPRAKASH KODIGE SHETTY, Husband of SUNITHA JAYANTH RAI Residing at No 2204,1st Floor, Kalyani Nilaya 3rd Block SIR M V Layout Bengaluru - 560056.Karnataka have changed my name From JAYAPRAKASH SHETTY to JAYAPRAKASH KODIGE SHETTY vide affidavit dated: 31/08/2024 Before Notary C. SHARADA Bangalore.

THE TIMES GROUP

Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquires and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any advertisement published in this publication. The Times Of India Group doesn't vouch for any claims made by the Advertisers of products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor, and Owners of The Times Of India Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.

LOST & FOUND

I Sunaina Sinha R/O B0707, Republic of Whitefield, Divyashree tech park Whitefield Bengaluru have lost my original degree certificate with Roll No. 60080103001 Enrolment No. 60080103168 Degree Serial No. 144902 Uttarakhand Technical University. FIR No. 1219374/2024. Contact 8971292356.

GENERAL

ANNOUNCEMENT

Ferns City Plot Owners Association will hold the 23rd AGM on 22.09.2024 (Sunday) at 9.00am. Venue: Ferns City Residential Club, Doddanakkundi, Bangalore 560037. For any further information please contact 9448201153,

Email to: fcpoa.office@gmail.com

GALLERIA

R.E.S. POLYTECHNIC

Estd: 1986 - Recognised by Govt. of Karnataka & AICTE

EVENING / WEEKEND CLASSES

Available for working Professionals to EE

10th Pass / What Next ???

JOIN DIPLOMA IN: ♦ Computer Science ♦ IS ♦ Civil ♦ Mechanical ♦ Automobile ♦ Electrical ♦ Electronics ♦ Fashion Tech ♦ Commerce (CP)

RES-24507

5, Sunkadakatte, Magadi Road, Hegganahalli Cross, Bengaluru-91

Call: Secretary - 99166 46466

Nirmala Travels® Presents

Ph: 0824 2497051/54, 9663518877/28877, 9686687771/3/4

visit us @ www.nirmalatravels.com

TRICHY RAMESHWARAM KANYAKUMARI 5/7*/10** DAYS

Sept: 9*, 15*, 16 18**, 21, 22*, 26, Oct: 1, 2**, 6, 11, 12* 16

KERALA/NAVAGRAHA DARSHAN 7/4* DAYS

Sept: 16*, 22 23* Oct: 6, 7*,13, 14*, 20, 21*, 27

SHIRDI NASIK*/PANCH JYOTHIRLINGA 7 DAYS

Sept: 14*, 15, 21*, 22, 28* Oct: 5*, 6, 12*, 13, 19* 20

ANDHRA PRADESH/HYDERABAD 10/6* DAYS

Sept: 21, 22*, 29* Oct: 2, 6*, 12, 13*, 20*,23, 27*

AMRITSAR VAISHNODEVI SRINAGAR 15 DAYS

Sept: 20 Oct: 13, 18, 25 Nov: 1, 8

HEALTH TIP: Yoghurt is a nutritious breakfast option, but pairing it with coffee might not be the best idea

Minimising food waste is crucial for both environmental sustainability and personal health

BangaloreMirror | 9
Tuesday, September 3, 2024
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
facebook.com/thebangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

Welcome to the dream world

4 breakthroughs that are changing our understanding of dreams

People have pondered whether dreams have a purpose throughout human history. Modern scientists are fascinated with this question too.

For a long time the science of dreams has oscillated between fringe research and the mainstream. But creative study designs and new technology are transforming it into an exciting and serious research niche.

Here are four recent breakthroughs that may pave the way for a greater understanding of dreaming.

Lucid dreams

In 2021 an international study showed that two-way communication between a lucid dreamer and a researcher in the lab was possible. In 2024, another study built on this by training lucid dreamers to control a virtual car from within their dreams.

The 12 dreamers in the experiment made slight muscle twitches, which sent a signal to a computer to make the virtual vehicle move forwards or turn. Signals were sent back to the dreamer to inform them of obstacles to try and avoid. Some could move the car well, but others, no matter how hard they tried, could not.

While fascinating, it is still unknown how such technology could be used in everyday life. And the small sample of this study, in part owing to the rarity of skilled lucid dreamers, limit the conclusions we can take from it. But the findings suggest that it may be possible (at least with practice) for some people to make decisions from inside a dream and communicate them to the outside world.

Why do we dream?

Sleep and dreams researcher Mark Blagrove from Swansea University thinks dreams were meant to be shared socially and evolved in humans to enhance emotional intelligence and empathy.

Since 2016, Blagrove has collaborated with artist Julia Lockheart in a dream discussion and illustration group. An audience member is invited to share a recent dream. Blagrove leads the discussion, while Lockheart sketches an interpretation of the dream onto the pages of Sigmund Freud's book The Interpretation of Dreams.

His 2019 research paper showed that discussing a dream in this way can lead to increased empathy between dream sharer and listeners. Blagrove argues this could have been valuable to ancestral survival in forming significant connections with others.

Other theories about why we dream have begun to emerge in recent years too, and some were discussed at a panel in June 2024 at the International Association for the Study of Dreams (IASD) annual conference. For example, the embodied cognition theory of dreaming, which proposes that dreams prepare us for the cognitive actions of ordinary waking life.

It hasn't been tested yet but shows a growing scientific interest in the adaptive purpose of dreams.

Insights from long dream series

Michael Schredl of the University of Mannheim in Germany is arguably the most prolific dream researcher today, having published hundreds of articles and books since his career began in the 1990s. He has been keeping a dream journal since the early 1980s. At the IASD conference, he gave a keynote talk analysing over 12,000 of his dreams.

Overall, the patterns seemed to support the continuity hypothesis of dreaming - that our dreams are influenced by events and concerns that are happening in our waking lives.

Schredl believes he is one of the first people to look at weather patterns in dreams. He noticed a steady decline over the years of ice, snow and hail in his dreams. Interestingly, this was similar to the documented declining number of "ice days" (days when the temperature was below 0°C for 24 hours) in Germany since he has been keeping a dream journal. He joked that perhaps the global warming effects are showing up in dreams too, but this could also be influenced by waking concerns about such things.

Another interesting pattern was references to money in dreams. When the Deutsche Mark was the prevailing currency, it occasionally showed up in his dreams over the years, but when the German currency changed to the Euro in 2002, the number of Deutsche Mark references were replaced by references to the Euro.

Long dream series such as this are rare, but they can show how us how intertwined dream content is with our waking lives.

Dream recall

Some people are better at remembering their dreams than others, recalling dreams more frequently and in more detail. For a long time, researchers have tried to determine the reasons and mechanisms for this difference. They've looked into factors including personality and attitude towards dreams, general memory ability, and the small physiological signals that happen during certain sleep stages. So far, one of the most consistent predictors of more frequent dream recall has been a positive attitude towards dreaming; if you think dreams are important, you're probably more motivated to try and remember them more often.

In 2022 French researcher Salomé Blain and their colleagues investigated the role of attention in dream recall, a cognitive skill which is closely connected to memory.

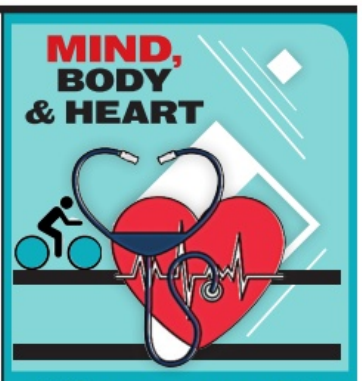
While their participants' ability to recall dreams did not seem linked to working memory - which temporarily holds information for immediate use - participants with low dream recall were better at ignoring distracting stimuli, and vice versa.

They compared low and high dream recallers in their ability to distinguish whether two melodies (which were both played in the same ear) were different, while a distracting melody was played in the opposite ear.

This suggests that people who are good at remembering dreams may be worse at filtering out irrelevant and distracting information, hence they may notice more of what's happening in their mind while sleeping.

However, dream recall is a learnable skill. For example, keeping a dream journal can significantly improve dream recall, especially for people who already have quite low dream recollection.

(By Anthony Bloxham, Nottingham Trent University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Coffee while pregnant

Is it safe

Pregnancy is a time of excitement, anticipation, and lots of questions – especially when it comes to what's safe to eat and drink. Coffee, a staple for many, often tops the list of concerns for expecting mothers. While it's known for its energy-boosting effects, caffeine – the main active ingredient in coffee – can raise questions about its safety during pregnancy.

Tips to help you enjoy it safely...

Measure Your Intake: Keep track of how much caffeine you're consuming from all sources to ensure you stay within the recommended limits.
Opt for Smaller Servings: Consider downsizing your usual coffee cup or reducing the frequency of consumption.
Explore Alternatives: Try herbal teas, warm milk, or flavoured decaf coffee as alternatives that can satisfy your cravings without the caffeine.
Listen to Your Body: Pregnancy affects everyone differently, so pay attention to how your body responds to caffeine and adjust accordingly.

In moderation

Coffee can still be a part of your daily routine during pregnancy, but moderation is key. By staying within the recommended caffeine limits and being mindful of other sources, you can enjoy your coffee while minimising any potential risks. If you have any concerns, it's always a good idea to consult with your healthcare provider.

Decaffeinated Coffee: A Safe Alternative?

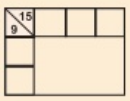
Decaffeinated coffee can be a good option for those who love the taste of coffee but want to limit their caffeine intake. Decaf coffee contains only about 2 to 5 mg of caffeine per cup, making it a safer choice during pregnancy. However, it's essential to be aware that even decaf coffee isn't completely caffeine-free, so it's still wise to monitor your overall caffeine consumption from all sources.

—Eshanka Wahi, nutritionist, for Femina

mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
facebook.com/theBangaloremirror
@BangaloreMirror

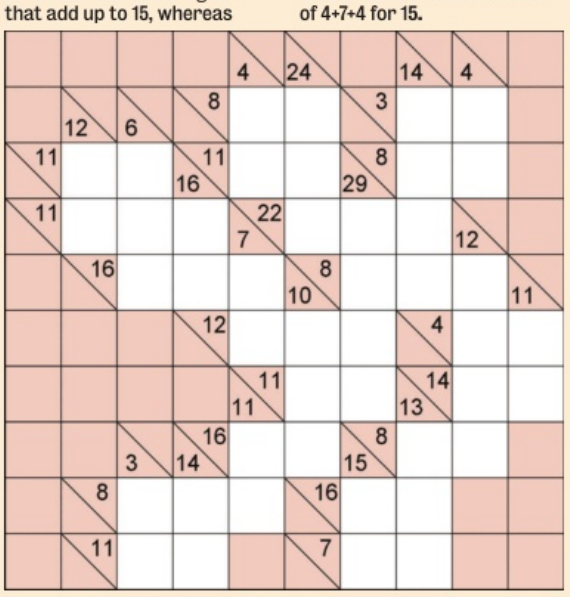
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

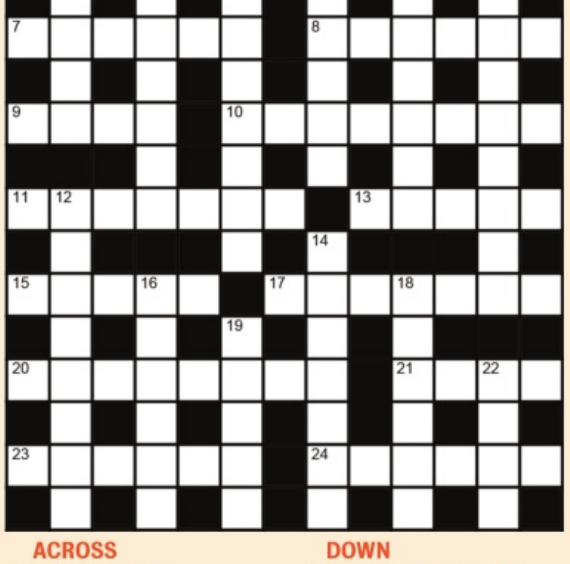


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Column; post (6)
8 Mediterranean fruits (6)
9 To listen to (4)
10 What all coins have? (3,5)
11 Puffed up (7)
13 In addition (5)
15 Snake anagram for a kind of a dagger? (5)
17 Sycophants (7)
20 Take the law into one's ___ ____: administer justice as one deems fit? (3,5)
21 ____ and void? (4)
23 European language (6)
24 Anchors ___: off to sea? (6)

DOWN

1 Trigonometric term (4)
2 Singer ___ Estefan (6)
3 Twists or contorts in pain (7)
4 'Fiddler on the Roof' actor (5)
5 Contributing (6)
6 Harshness or rigorousness? (8)
12 Tepid (4-4)
14 Rower (7)
16 Greek city (6)
18 More benevolent (6)
19 National park home to tigers, panthers and elephants (5)
22 Lower limbs (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: S EQUALS U

OPM YMNO JWV OA RLZM LN YV IAO QIAJLIT JPWO JLRR PWGGMI OA VAS WO OPM MIF AH OPM FWV.

Linemaro

You breathe oxygen? We have so much in common

Mindchow

The books the world calls immoral are those that show the world its own shame

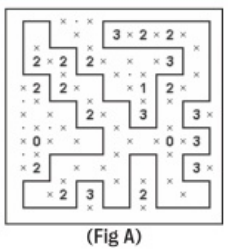
Joke of the day

I love asking kids what they want to be when they grow up because I'm still looking for ideas

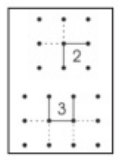
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

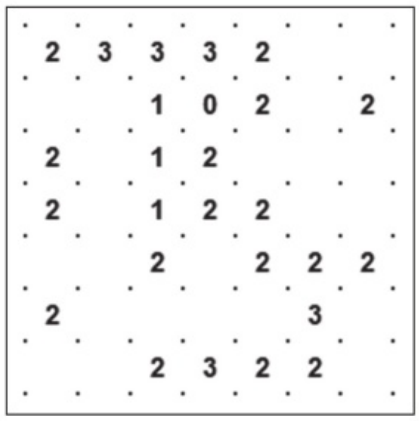


(Fig B) Not Allowed

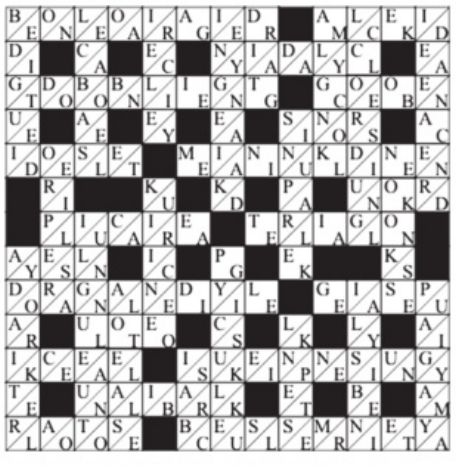
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



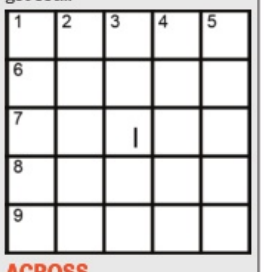
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 L cups; 6 Ulnar; 7 Aries; 8 Senti; 9 Ogres

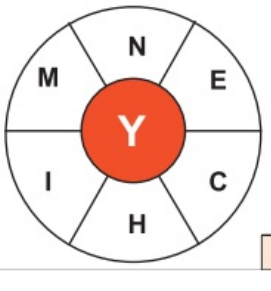
DOWN

1 Glans; 2 U Rico; 3 Tune I; 4 Earls; 5 Spers

Mensapuzzle

Solve this dingbat:

Your Turn Homework



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

01 Average; 02 Good; 03 Outstanding

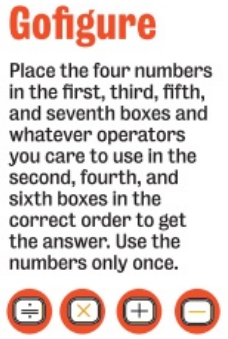
SudokuChallenge

8		1	3			6		4
4				7		2		
			1					3
	2			8		3		6
		4				8		
6		8		2			4	
2					9			
		3		5				1
1		9			6	4		2

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

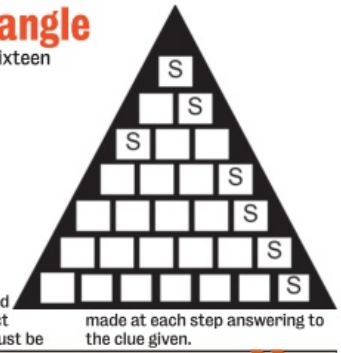
Differences: 1. Pan handle is longer. 2. Apron shoulder strap is moved. 3. Knife is missing. 4. Flower is moved. 5. Pot handle is lower. 6. Sleeve is shorter.

Riddler

The dark you'll be in, figurative and literal Failing the correct frequency digital Though sitting and staring may sound boring Strange new worlds may you be exploring As I entertain you, time will quickly pass The images you will witness, all seen through glass The first's main subject may be a monstrous creature Comedy or intrigue may prevail in the second feature What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number Sixteen
2 ___and them
3 Light source
4 Burger bread
5 Deadens
6 Rain cloud
7 An anthology

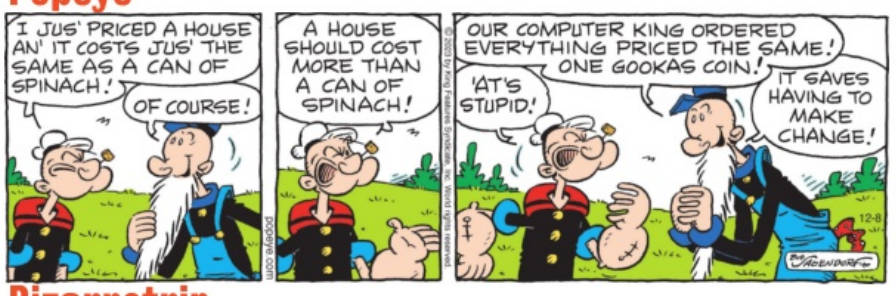


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

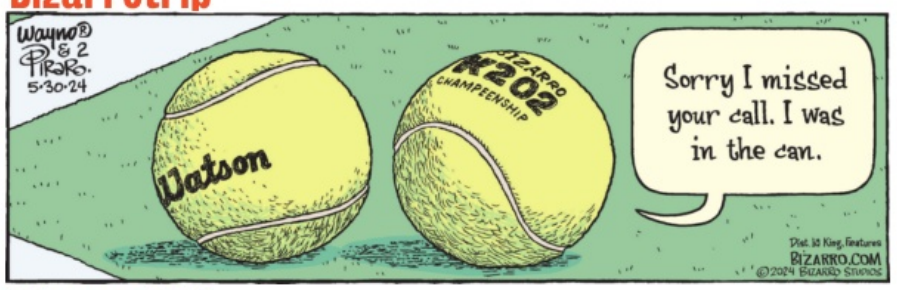
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

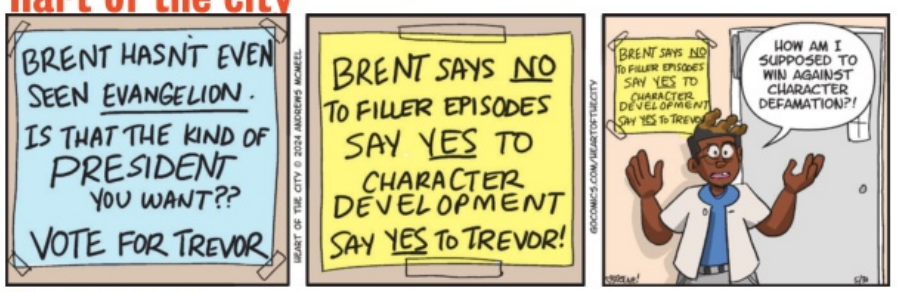

I JUS' PRICED A HOUSE AN' IT COSTS JUS' THE SAME AS A CAN OF SPINACH!
OF COURSE!
A HOUSE SHOULD COST MORE THAN A CAN OF SPINACH!
OUR COMPUTER KING ORDERED EVERYTHING PRICED THE SAME! ONE GOOKAS COIN!
'AT'S STUPID!
IT SAVES HAVING TO MAKE CHANGE!

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


BRENT HASN'T EVEN SEEN EVANGELION. IS THAT THE KIND OF PRESIDENT YOU WANT?? VOTE FOR TREVOR
BRENT SAYS NO TO FILLER EPISODES SAY YES TO CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT SAY YES TO TREVOR!
BRENT SAYS NO TO FILLER EPISODES SAY YES TO CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT SAY YES TO TREVOR!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO WIN AGAINST CHARACTER DEFAMATION?!

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you are blessed by the moon. New sources of income may likely open up. Your past investments will now start paying in terms of profits. Your losses will convert into profits, which will boost your financial health. Health issues related to parents may be resolved.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may implement your business plans with the help of your strong network. You may get a big order with the help of your wisdom. There may be some good understanding between you and your spouse, which may increase harmony in your domestic life. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, last few days' messy situation is under control. You are blessed by the moon. You may initiate your postponed work. With blessings, you may get reward for your hard work. There are some gains in your business which may boost your finances. You may spend money on artefacts or literature. You may also plan to travel overseas.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may not feel well. You might have health issues, which may affect your profession and domestic life. You may likely be upset due to spouse's health issues. Your patience may be tested many times. You are advised not to make investments in new business projects, otherwise you may face losses. Students are advised to work hard on their studies.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you are blessed by the moon, you may be able to make quick decisions on the professional front. You may expect to get new opportunities in terms of business, which may boost your confidence level. You are likely to start some new innovations with the help of your partner that may increase your business in the near future.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you are blessed by the moon, you may perform well at work, you may expect some promotions or transfers in terms of gains. You may also plan to change your current job. Your relations with your boos may be boosted now. Chronic health issues will be resolved now, that may make your family happy.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today things will be under your control. You will enjoy your work and your focus will be good, that will reflect into your way of working. Your wisdom will help you to go ahead in taking difficult decisions in terms of profession. Your past investments will start paying now.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may be disappointed with your current position at work or home. You may not enjoy your moments. You may spend your hard-earned money buying some worthless stuff, which may affect your savings. You may likely plan for migration from the current place. You are advised to take care of your parents' health.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may make decisions very fast, which may give benefits in day-to-day life. You may take some difficult decisions with the help of your colleagues, you may likely get success easily. Property-related disputes between siblings may likely be resolved. You may also expect some short trips.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today you advised to control your straightforwardness. Your way of talking may affect people around you. You may spend your hard-earned money buying some worthless stuff. Your mind may likely work very fast, it is advised to make any important decision with patience.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you are blessed by the moon, last couple of days' disappointment may now convert into happiness. You may enjoy your professional and personal life, your network may help you complete your postponed projects. You may likely start some new venture with the help of your siblings and your network may support you in every step.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may feel negativity around you. You may feel impatient. Focus towards goals is likely to be lost. Your grip on your projects may likely slow down, which may be a reason for loss in business or work. You may also notice some detachments from your responsibilities that may affect your day-to-day routine.

KIDZONE

Ramya Murthy, 8 Years, Ashoka International School

Sanjanna V, 6 Years, DRDO KG School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= ∜3 × ∜27
= ∜3 × 27
= ∜√81
= ∜3⁴
=3

BULL'S EYE
CHIMNEY, hymen, hymn

FAST FIVE

S	C	U	L	P
L	U	N	A	R
A	R	I	S	E
N	I	T	E	S
G	O	E	R	S

STRIKE OUT

R	A	T	S		C	E	L	E	R	I	T	Y		
E		N	A	B	A	L		E		B		M		
K	E	E	L		S	K	I	N	N	I	N	G		
R		U	T	E		C	K		L		I			
O	R	G	A	N	D	I	E		G	A	S	P		
Y	E	N		I		P		K		K				
L	U	C	R	E		T	R	I	G	O				
I		U		D		A		N	O	D				
D	O	L	E		M	A	I	N	L	I	N	E		
E		E		Y		E		S	O	S		C		
G	O	B	B	L	I	N	G		G	O	O	N		
D	A		E	N	I	A	L		L		A			
E	N	L	A	R	G	E	D		A	C	E	D		

QUICK

		M	S		I		N	R		S				
	F	R	E	N	C	H		A	W	E	I	G	H	
	A		E		S		M		D		E			
O	W	N	H	A	N	D	S		N	U		L		
	E		T		A		R		I					
S	K	E	A	N		L	A	C	K	E	Y	S		
	U				S		O				T			
B	L	O	A	T	E	D		A	G	A	I	N		
	I		H				L		N		R			
H	E	A	R		T	W	O	S	I	D	E	S		
	N		O		I		P		V		Y			
P	I	L	L	A	R		O	L	I	V	E	S		
	S		G		W		T		G		S			

MENSA PUZZLE
turn in your homework

RIDDLER
A drive-in theater

QUOTE UNCODE
The best way to live is by not knowing what will happen to you at the end of the day.

SUDOKU

8	7	1	3	9	2	6	5	4
4	3	5	6	7	8	2	1	9
9	6	2	1	4	5	7	8	3
5	2	7	4	8	1	3	9	6
3	1	4	9	6	7	8	2	5
6	9	8	5	2	3	1	4	7
2	4	6	7	1	9	5	3	8
7	8	3	2	5	4	9	6	1
1	5	9	8	3	6	4	7	2

ALPHA TRIANGLE
turn in your homework
S, Us, Sun, Guns, Numbs, Nimbus, Omnibus.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 + 3 − 6 + 1 = 5
Medium
3 × 8 × 2 − 6 = 42
Hard
5 − 3 + 6 × 6 = 48

LOOP

KAKURO

Volume No 17, Issue No 176 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

 # Debut premiere
Boman Irani, who is all set to make his directorial debut with 'The Mehta Boys', his film will be premiered at the prestigious 15th Chicago South Asian Film Festival

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Importance of rice

Hindu scriptures describe food as a form of Brahman (Annam Parabrahma swaroopam). Now, a Kannada movie – Anna – is set to narrate the importance of food. The movie is based on a short story written by Hanur Chennappa. It is directed by Islahuddin and is set to arrive in theaters on September 6.

The trailer and audio of the movie were released at SRV Theater on Wednesday. A video of director-cum-writer Yogaraj Bhat releasing the teaser was screened on the occasion.

NS Islahuddin, who hails from Mysuru, told BM he has basic training from Rangayana and has directed some plays. "Music director Nagesh Kandigala told me about the story of this movie. It was written by Kannada Sahitya Academy award winner Hanur Chennappa. The story is set in the 1980s and speaks of how people used to struggle to get rice. The movie revolves around a boy who goes missing during a village fair and how he returns home," said Islahuddin.

He said Anna was screened during the Bengaluru International Film Festival and it received good feedback. Chennappa said he wrote the short story in 2004. "I came across a boy who had gone missing during the village fair and returned home after six months. I watched the movie and it has come out well," said Chennappa.

Song for stove

A song on a stove, frying pan, and ladle was released by the team of movie Kaalapatthar at MMB Legacy. Vicky Varun and Dhanya Ramkumar feature in the song that has music by Anoop Seelin. The song - Bandli Stove - written by Pramod Maruvanthe, was released by a few homemakers.

Kaalapatthar, bankrolled by Bhuvan Suresh and Nagaraj B under the Bhuvan Movies banner, is scheduled for release on September 13. Vicky Varun, who worked as associate for directors Yogaraj Bhat and Soori, and also acted in a few Kannada movies, debuts as a director in Sandalwood with Kaalapatthar. Vicky also plays the lead in the movie.

"Women use the stove, frying pan and ladle at home. So, we had homemakers release it. Music composed by Anoop Seelin and lyrics by Pramod Maruvanthe are good," said Varun.

Appreciating Vicky, Seelin said that most movie directors don't bother to spend much time discussing music and lyrics. "I thank Vicky Varun for spending time in discussing it. If the songs are good, the credit must go to him. I want movie goers to support and encourage the movie," said Seelin.

'Anybody saying they are not aware of what was happening is lying'

Parvathy tells ETimes about situation in film industry, says it is not Mollywood-centric issue

The #MeToo movement in the Malayalam film industry gained momentum after the release of the much-delayed Hema Committee report on August 19. Actor and member of Kerala's Women in Cinema Collective (WCC), Parvathy Thiruvothu, spoke to ETimes about the situation and reforms needed in the industry.

While revelations continue to surface, there are some who claim they were unaware about what was going on, and many kept quiet about it. Do you believe that?

Anybody who is saying that they are not aware of what was happening is lying. There are possibilities that some of them weren't affected by this system or this power structure. Maybe some of them haven't been harassed sexually, but verbally, or even in terms of being given contracts or basic sanitation at the workplace. There are probably some who haven't been deeply impacted like the rest. But if they are saying they haven't seen it around, haven't heard about it, or think it doesn't exist, that's just cruel. I have faced it, which is what I disclosed to the HEMA committee.

Do you think, more stakeholders, especially the male actors, should speak up?

When it comes to women's safety, the onus is always on women to prove their innocence. The fact that they didn't ask for it. Men are never held accountable. When everyone says this is our Malayalam film industry, the silence is deafening. We do expect more actors, directors and stakeholders to speak. If their involvement comes in at the right time, this can benefit the film industry.

On pay disparity being attributed to an actor's market value and not the gender

If the Hema committee has said pay disparity exists, there's enough evidence to prove that. It's easy for top-level actors to say it's about how you fill the theatres. Do these male actors take a pay cut for the producer if their next three films fail? From the time I acted in Uyare (2019), I have not gotten a penny more because I have been told, 'but market value'. When a movie does well, male actors are always considered in the profit sharing. It's unheard of to give that option to a female actor." —ETimes

The next role

Bollywood actress and fashionista Sonam Kapoor is set to start shooting her first project post pregnancy early next year and said that she loves living so many interesting characters through her profession.

Sonam confirmed: "I'm super excited to face the camera again post my pregnancy. I love being an actor and I love living so many interesting characters through my profession. Human beings fascinate me and I love playing varied roles. I'm looking forward to my next."

She added: "I will return to the sets early next year. Details of this project are currently getting locked so I won't be able to talk at length till the announcement is made. It's a big project. That's all I can say right now."

The actress' next will be a streaming project on a global platform. Details related to the project are still under wraps.

The actress recently shared a glimpse of dining in a fine-dine Indian restaurant, along with her sister Rhea Kapoor and her friends.

Taking to Instagram Stories, Sonam's friend shared some picture from their luncheon.

Sonam gorged on spaghetti, beluga caviar, paneer kulchas, malai stone bass tikka, and a full-fledged Indian thali--which has pulao, naan, gravy items, lentils, raita and papad.On the professional front, Sonam had started her career as an assistant director with filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Black'.

She made her acting debut with 2007 romantic drama 'Saawariya', alongside Ranbir Kapoor. Produced and directed by Bhansali, the film was based on Fyodor Dostoevsky's 1848 short story 'White Nights'.

Sonam also appeared in movies like 'Pad Man', 'Veere Di Wedding', 'Ek Ladki Ko Dekha Toh Aisa Laga', 'Sanju', and 'Blind'. — IANS

'Self-expression': Sid happy to see men wearing make-up

Actor Sidharth Malhotra is happy to see men wearing make-up and said that it a "refreshing change" as it reflects broader societal acceptance of self-expression.

"I think the shift towards men wearing make-up is a refreshing change that reflects broader societal acceptance of self-expression. We're now seeing a growing recognition that beauty is not gender-specific," Sidharth told IANS.

The actor credits social media for normalising the trend. "The rise of social media platforms has played a significant role in normalizing this trend. Many men are embracing makeup as part of their grooming routine."

He said it is more than just about looking good. "Ffor many, it's a form of self-care and creativity. It's exciting to see how this evolution allows men to explore their identities and express themselves without the constraints of traditional gender norms..." —IANS